

United States District Court

FOR THE
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Matter of the Complaint of)	
)	
ROBERT L. STANTON)	NO. 02-CV-10408-GAO
As Owner of the Vessel "MISTY LADY")	
For Exoneration From or)	
Limitation of Liability)	
THE CONTINENTAL CASUALTY)	
COMPANY, as subrogee of RONALD)	
SHOWALTER, MICHAEL GIOMBETTI)	
and W.F. KING,)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 04-CV-11872-GAO
)	
NORTHSIDE MARINA AT SESUIT)	
HARBOR, INC.,)	
JOSEPH S. BUSCONE, as Trustee of the)	
Northside Marina Trust, and FAITH)	
BUSCONE, as Trustee of the)	
Northside Marina Trust)	
Defendants.)	

ANSWER TO AMENDED COMPLAINT, CROSS-CLAIM AND JURY DEMAND OF NORTHSIDE MARINA AT SESUIT HARBOR, INC.

The defendant Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc. ("Northside") answers the Amended Complaint of The Continental Casualty Company as follows:

Parties

1. The defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 1.
2. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 2.
3. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 3.
4. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 4.

Jurisdiction

5. To the extent that the allegations in paragraph 5 are statements of law and legal conclusions of the pleader, no response is required. To the extent that any response is required, the defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 5.

Facts Common to All Counts

6. The defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 6.
7. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 7, except it denies its sole business purpose was to store and maintain vessels.
8. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 8.
9. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 9, except it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 9 as to whether the individuals mentioned were "Continental's Insureds".
10. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 10.
11. The defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraph 11 that certain vessels were destroyed, but is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a

belief as to the truth of the allegations as to whether the vessels were insured through Continental or on Continental's behalf.

12. The defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 12.

13. The defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 13.

14. The defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 14.

15. The defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraph 15.

16. The defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraph 16.

Count I – Negligence v. Northside

17. The defendant repeats and realleges its answers to paragraphs 1-16 as if fully set out herein.

18. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 18.

19. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 19.

20. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 20.

Count II – Negligent Bailment v. Northside

21. The defendant repeats and realleges its answers to paragraphs 1-20 as if fully set out herein.

22. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 22.

23. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 23.

24. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 24.

25. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 25.

Count III– Negligence v. Trustees

26. The defendant repeats and realleges its answers to paragraphs 1-25 as if fully set out herein.
27. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 27.
28. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 28.
29. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 29.
30. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 30.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Complaint fails to state any claims against either defendant Northside, Joseph Buscone or Faith Buscone upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

If the plaintiff sustained damages as alleged in the Complaint, they were caused by acts of third persons, namely William Henchy, which acts the defendants Northside, Joseph Buscone and Faith Buscone had no reason to anticipate and of which the defendants Joseph and Faith Buscone had no knowledge, and over whom they have no control.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims against defendants Northside, Joseph Buscone and Faith Buscone are barred by the express terms and conditions of the “Summer Dockage Agreements” which states that Northside Marina “assumes no responsibility for the safety of any vessel docked in the Marina and will not be liable for fire, theft or damage to said vessel...however arising.”

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The plaintiff by its conduct and actions, as well as those of its subrogees, is estopped by the doctrines of laches, waiver, and unclean hands to recover any judgment against defendants Northside, Joseph Buscone and Faith Buscone.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The defendants Northside, Joseph Buscone and Faith Buscone state that if the plaintiff and its subrogees were damaged as alleged, said damages were caused or contributed by the negligence of conduct of its subrogees.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The defendants Northside, Joseph Buscone and Faith Buscone state that that plaintiff and its subrogees have failed to mitigate their alleged damages.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Some or all of the plaintiff's claims are barred by the applicable Statute of Limitations and/or doctrine of laches.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Some or all of the plaintiff's claims fail due to a lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, the defendant Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc. requests that this Court a) dismiss the Complaint of the plaintiff Continental Casualty Company with prejudice; b) award costs and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees to the defendant Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc.; and, c) grant such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST WILLIAM C. HENCHY
FOR INDEMNIFICATION**

1. The defendants/cross-claim plaintiffs are Joseph S. Buscone and Faith Buscone, in their capacities as co-trustees of the Northside Marina Trust, who are individuals residing in Massachusetts.
2. The defendants/cross-claim plaintiff is Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation residing in Massachusetts.
3. The defendant/cross-claim defendant is William C. Henchy who is an individual who resides in Massachusetts.
4. On or about August 27, 2004, the plaintiff Continental Casualty Company, as subrogee of Ronald Showalter, Michael Giombetti, and W.F. King, began this action by filing a Complaint seeking damages.
5. The original Complaint essentially alleged that William C. Henchy intentionally started a fire at the Northside Marina and that Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc., Joseph S. Buscone and Faith Buscone were negligent in providing security and/or fire prevention systems which would have prevented the fire started by William C. Henchy.
6. At all times relevant hereto, William C. Henchy moored his boat at Northside and was party to a “Summer Dockage Agreement” with Northside which contractually obligates him to indemnify and hold harmless Northside for all damages relating out of this incident as it provides that Henchy “will be held responsible for damage he may cause to other boats in the Marina or the structures or facilities thereof.”

7. As a result of his wrongful conduct as set forth in the original Complaint, William C. Henchy is also obligated by common law to indemnify and hold harmless Northside, Joseph S. Buscone, and Faith Buscone for all of their damages arising out of this incident.

8. As a result of the filing of the action by the plaintiff Continental Casualty Company, the defendants/cross-claim plaintiffs will have to answer and otherwise defend against the claims asserted in the action, thereby incurring attorney's fees, costs, and other incidental expenses.

9. If Continental and its subrogees sustained the damages in the manner and under the circumstances alleged, and if it is found that Northside, Joseph S. Buscone, and Faith Buscone are liable, either in whole or part, to Continental and its subrogees, or any others, then such damages will have been occasioned, in whole or part, by Henchy's wrongful conduct for whom Northside, Joseph S. Buscone, and Faith Buscone are not responsible.

WHEREFORE, the defendants/cross-claim plaintiffs Joseph S. Buscone, Faith Buscone, and Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc. demand judgment against the defendant/cross-claim defendant William C. Henchy for a) indemnification of all or part of any sums that may be judged against Joseph S. Buscone, Faith Buscone, and Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc. in favor of the plaintiff Continental Casualty Company, as subrogee of Ronald Showalter, Michael Giombetti, and W.F. King; b) compensate Joseph S. Buscone, Faith Buscone, and Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc. for their attorney's fees, costs, and other incidental expenses as a consequence of the filing of the action by plaintiff Continental Casualty Company; and c) award any further relief that is just and equitable.

NORTHSIDE MARINA AT SESUIT HARBOR, INC. DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL CLAIMS SO TRIABLE.

Northside Marina at Sesuit Harbor, Inc.
By its attorney,

/s/ J. Mark Dickison

J. Mark Dickison (BBO No.629170)
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, J. Mark Dickison, hereby certify that on December 10, 2004, a true copy of the foregoing document was electronically filed with the Court and sent by first class mail to all counsel of record.

/s/ J. Mark Dickison

J. Mark Dickison (BBO No.629170)